

**Broughton
Gifford**

VILLAGE



CLEAN IT UP!

MAGAZINE

**September
2007**

SEPTEMBER 2007

Our front cover this month has been given over to the important change in the application of the law with regard to dog mess. I know that it doesn't seem possible that there is anyone in the country still unaware of the obligation to clean up after their dog, but it would appear that there are still one or two in the village who either don't know or don't care. Just as an example, the start of the last Youth Club meeting before the summer break had to be delayed while someone fetched a shovel to clean the centre of the paddock play area ! The Parish Council are in earnest (see page 9) and so are the District Council (see page10). Let's hope we can convert the last two or three culprits to the belief that it is they and not the rest of us who should take their dog's mess home !

It is so good to see the return of a Broughton football team. Good luck boys and very well done to all who brought it about. Thanks too to those who tended the playing area in the belief that it would be needed again. Here's Hilary.....

Ponderings



Hi folks, once again. I hope you have all managed to make the best of what can only be described as an awful summer. All I am prepared to say is I could not have picked a better one to break my arm. I still live in hopes that September will be good, but I am not holding my breath. The pond has been on the brink of overflowing, and our very large population of frogs has retreated to the flowerbeds, with somewhat alarming results. One has to be very careful where one directs the spade, as their ability to leap out at you is a bit nerve-wracking. Compared to the rest of the country, we have really got off very lightly, and I cannot think of anything worse than being flooded. The smell, for a start, and the time it would take to dry out. We were actually in Shropshire just before the rains came, and managed to leave before the worst of the water arrived, but water coming up the drains instead of down is a bit alarming. However, I can remember similar events in the past, Lynton and Lymriouth for example, or Boscastle in more recent times, and we have had truly dreadful summers before as well, so I do not despair of ever seeing the sunshine again. Mother Nature is very resilient if left to herself, but I do think we need to consider the wisdom of building on flood plains. That is just asking for trouble.

It is probably due to the less-than-cheerful weather, but the news appears to have been generally awful as well. There have been more stabbings and shootings than you could shake a stick at, and, in general, all involving young people. I find that aspect very tragic, as it seems to me that us adults have let our young people down. We do not seem to be able to pass on to them decent standards of behaviour, and how to treat their fellow human beings with consideration and respect. Family life seems to be breaking down, and with it society in general. I think it is time for all of us to reconsider our priorities, and to make time for the young people in our midst. After all, we tend to get the children we deserve, and they will be the ones choosing our Care Homes in the future.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Paul Finch in a motorcycle accident on 11 th August, and our sympathies go to his wife Juliet and daughter Daisy.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Wendy Griffin, who has had a hip operation, and to Marilyn Cog swell, who has had an eye operation. We trust that the NHS treated you

both well, and you did not come out with more than you went in with. Bring back the hospital matron, say I. I have always been very fortunate in that my dealings with the medical authorities have always been brief, but I would have to say that while I could not fault their standard of care, their administration does leave a bit to be desired.

Having welcomed Sarah Jackson to the village last month, it now gives me great pleasure to congratulate her and Simon Childe on the occasion of their recent marriage, and we wish them both all the very best for the future. At least I am a bit more up to date this time!

I am grateful to those kind folk who go to the trouble of telling me about fellow villagers who have fallen by the wayside, and if I have missed anyone out, I am very sorry. Likewise, if you have managed to move into the village undetected, please consider yourselves duly welcomed.

See you all in October. Nearly Christmas!

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REPORT OF BROUGHTON GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 4TH JULY 2007

Mrs Jarvis was not present and District Councillor Ernie Clark had sent his apologies. District Councillor Trevor Carbin was present.

Mr Gurney welcomed the new Parish Councillor, Sam Read, who then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

Signs would be obtained from District Council and erected to inform the public that the commons were now covered by the Dog Control Order as from 1st August 2007 resulting in it being an offence to not clear up after your dog. Suitable bins had been installed where suggested by the Parish Council, although the matter of collection had still not been finalised. The bins did not show that they were suitable for dog waste and signage indicating that this was the case would be obtained.

Regarding the Village Project, after visiting the Newleaze Park footpath after the last meeting it was felt this should be the main Project to get completed before considering any others. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to lay a section of slabs in the middle section of the path to improve its condition especially during the winter months. The end sections would be more suited to a layer of shingle/scalping. The Parish Council had enquired with its insurers to see if its existing policy covered this path, or whether an additional premium would be due and if so how much. No reply had yet been received.

Letters had been received from several residents complaining about the siting of a waste bin on the telegraph pole on the Common opposite their properties. These both indicated concerns about possible smells, flies etc and asked for it to be moved. The Parish Council would ask the District Council to move that particular bin further down the Common onto the metal streetlight pole.

Wiltshire County Council had written advising of its efforts to ensure local people in Wiltshire have access to Post Office services in future, in light of a recent Government announcement that over 2000 in the UK will have to be closed. A petition was enclosed and this had been copied and given to The Bell to gain people's support against these closures, although it was unlikely to affect Broughton Gifford's facility.

Planning The Clerk had received a response from the Land Registry regarding its enquiry about the measures in place to stop people extending their boundaries, especially at times of changes in ownership, to include previously unregistered land. The Land Registry confirmed that it examines the deeds and full documentary evidence relating to the title of the property before producing a title plan. It will only include land to which legal title is held as proved with relevant documentation and applications to change any boundaries will have to be fully supported with evidence. A letter would be sent to the occupier of 25A The Street advising that the Parish Council had followed the matter up with the Land Registry in good faith, purely as a test case because this type of situation had not previously occurred. It was unsure of the procedures in place at the Land Registry to ensure that boundary changes are fully validated before a title plan is produced. She would be thanked for her assistance and co-operation in this matter and that it appreciated her patience. The 'Avon Mews' sign was still in the same position at the East Lane junction. Mr Atkins reported that an accident had occurred at this site recently, but was unsure whether the signage had been a factor. An e-mail had been received from Mr Tyrrell, WWDC Planning Compliance Officer advising that if people visit Pickwick Caravans on East Lane to buy caravans or motor homes stored on the site then this would constitute a breach of planning control for this site. He has not found any evidence that caravans are being sold directly from the site, either to people who visit or over the Internet. However, he asks that any evidence of this occurring should be passed onto his Department so that it can be investigated. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the site and seek to produce evidence as necessary. The Compliance Officer would be asked if and when he would be in a position to reply to the Parish Council's complaint about the use of agricultural land to store numerous vehicles on land off B3107 between Challymead and Reeds Yard, as the 40 days had passed some time ago. Application for a first floor extension at 13 Newleaze Park had been given permission. No tree preservation orders were made in respect of the two willows at the rear of 120 The Street. Extension to conservatory at 84 The Common had been given permission. Permission had been given for the single storey front extension at 25A The Street. Confirmation had been received of the Tree Preservation Order being placed on the replacement walnut tree to the rear of 70 The Common. An application for a single storey rear extension at 29 Newleaze Park had been

received and the Parish Council had no objections. An application for a first floor rear extension at 8 The Street had been received and the Parish Council had no objections.

Co-option to fill one vacancy The Clerk had received a total of four letters from residents interested in filling the current vacancy. These letters were read out in the order they were received. After due consideration of each applicant Mr Hooper proposed that Mr Mark Taylor of 39 Curtis Orchard be appointed, which was seconded by Mr Hall. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council and all applicants would be advised accordingly. The Parish Council commented that it was an exceptional field of candidates.

General Maintenance An overhanging hedge was reported at 24 The Street and Ms Read stated she would speak to the owner. The Clerk had written a letter to PC Martin Rae about the incidents of speeding and requesting a device to flash up people's current speed to make them more aware but had heard nothing back. Mr Hooper stated the Wilts Camera Partnership were in the Village in the last week. Mr Atkins had received a phone call from a resident complaining about the amount of dog faeces on the path from The Manor to the brook in Curtis Orchard. Relevant signs would be erected warning people of the fines for failing to clear up after their dog. Ms Read reported continual damage to the pavement outside 34 Curtis Orchard which appears to be done by the waste collection lorries. It had recently been repaired only to be immediately damaged again after a waste collection and this would be reported to WCC Highways. The continuing problem of rubble on Footpath 18 will be reported to WCC and an enquiry if this was legal would be made.

The Clerk had some news on the Community Bus and its efforts to get a school run to Corsham. After several meetings with Melksham 1st a trial run of the minibus was made with the Clerk to verify the preferred stops in the village and one in Shaw, avoiding areas used by George Ward School pupils and confirming the mileage involved. Initially, the estimated cost per child had been £2 per day (covering both journeys) but after this trial run and some calculations this would be £3 per day, to include the cost of paying a driver and so efforts were to be made to get a volunteer driver to cut costs. If not, parents would be approached to see if they would be prepared to meet a cost of £3 per day. This matter is still ongoing.

Mr Wiltshire reported that Mr Bailey had received a complaint about the swans on the Common, which were damaging cars by pecking at their reflections in the paintwork. The adults and 3 cygnets were also causing traffic problems when they walked around different areas of the Village. He had asked the Swan Protection Trust to remove them to another site, but they had since returned with just one cygnet. The Parish Council would include in the next issue of the Village Magazine a notice that car owners parking their vehicles on the Common do so at their own risk and if damage occurs they should take this up with their insurers.

Some residents of Newleaze Park had reported to the presence of numerous mopeds in the village Hall car park causing a nuisance and entering people's gardens. PC Martin Rae had been advised and will ensure some visits by a marked patrol car to the car park to deter further trouble.

Concerns had been made about the numerous movements of horse boxes before, during and after events held at Stonar School. These vehicles are getting larger, verging on the size of HGV's but requiring no additional training to drive them. On many occasions the drivers can be openly seen talking on mobile phones whilst driving and the Police would be advised of when these events are taking place so that a Police presence through the Village can deter this behaviour and hopefully improve standards of driving.

REPORT OF BROUGHTON GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 1ST AUGUST 2007

Mr Hooper had sent his apologies as his wife had to be collected from hospital. District Councillor Trevor Carbin had also sent his apologies. Mr Mark Taylor, District Councillor Ernie Clark, Mr Paul Walsh from West Wilts Housing Society, Mr Graham Dorrington from BBA Architects and Rural Housing Enabler Carol Southall from Community First were also present.

Mr Gurney welcomed the new Parish Councillor, Mark Taylor, who then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

The new bin on the Common had been moved to a more suitable position after complaints were made by local residents. The Dog Control Order came into effect today and it had been advertised on local radio. The bins had been supplied by the District Council free of charge and will be emptied by the District Council also free of charge. A letter of thanks would be sent. Several people using the Commons had been advised that these areas are now covered by this Order and failure to remove dog faeces could result in a fine being imposed. Mr Atkins had received a phone call from a resident in Curtis Orchard complaining about the amount of dog faeces along the path by The Manor. The Clerk had obtained stickers to erect throughout the Village, including the Commons. Two of these would be displayed in the relevant area.

Mrs Chris Pitura had sent an email to the Parish Council agreeing to be its representative on age related issues. Now the Parish Council is at full strength, representation on its working groups, sub-committees etc. would be included on the Agenda at next month's meeting.

The Parish Council's insurers, Allianz Cornhill, had advised that provided the Parish Council has accepted sole responsibility for the area and footpath in Newleaze Park, including its upkeep and maintenance, the existing Public Liability section of its policy will extend to include the legal liabilities arising from accidents causing bodily injury to third parties or damage to their property. Mr Atkins confirmed that a delivery of slabs was expected in the next few days and that work would start thereafter.

District Council Environmental Health Officer advised that if the rubble on footpath 18, which was considered to be a waste product, was being transported to this site it may require a waste transfer notice, but he would visit the site in the next few days to gauge the problem for himself. He would be advised that the Parish Council would appreciate his assistance and advice in this matter.

The Clerk reported that letters had gone out to those expressing an interest in supporting a possible Corsham School bus run provided by Melksham Council of Community Service (MCCS) and Melksham 1st, requesting the first term's contribution. It was hoped that sufficient numbers would enable the bus to run as from September 2007.

PC Martin Rae had been advised about the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the poor driving exhibited by horse box/lorry owners, especially when using mobile phones. He had replied confirming the legislation applicable to driving restrictions in relation to weight of trailers and using hand held phones whilst driving. He also confirmed that further patrols would be carried out in the Village and the Clerk would remind him of when the next Stonar horse event (22nd/23rd September) nearer the time.

Affordable Housing West Wiltshire Housing Society New Initiatives Manager Mr Paul Walsh was accompanied by Mr Graham Dorrington of BBA Architects and Carol Southall, Rural Housing Enabler who had carried out the latest housing needs survey in the Village. Mr Walsh had brought draft outline designs to the Parish Council for initial comments. These designs had also been provided to the District Council's Planning Dept in pre-application form to obtain its views on the draft scheme. The units will be built in accordance with Government Environmental Standard Code 3, making use of sustainable solar energy and will be of a 'Lifetime Home Standard' ensuring homes can be adapted with minimal effort as their occupants increase in age and their needs change. Mr Wiltshire asked that before looking at the draft plans, as two of its members were new, could more background information on affordable housing be given to the Parish Council. Carol Southall outlined that the affordable housing provision is likely to be for rent as even shared ownership was becoming less affordable and less attractive. Anyone on the District Council's Housing Register can 'bid' for the properties, but as these would be on an exception site in Broughton Gifford (ie outside the Village Policy limit where planning permission would not normally be given) priority would be given to those with a direct local connection via family, employment, school etc. The properties will never be available on the open market for sale or rent as this would permanently remove them from the people they are being built for and so they will remain 'affordable' in perpetuity. Events to involve the local residents can be held to ensure those affected by the development are fully consulted and to also generate interest for prospective tenants to make certain the housing will be well supported and used by those in local need. Articles/advertisements can be included in the local magazine/newspapers. Both the Housing Society and Community First will be happy to assist and advise on these events or help with publicity. As far as timescale is concerned Mr Walsh estimated that once planning permission has been granted, funding would need to be obtained either through the District Council's

PFI project (Dec 2008) with building possibly being started in 2009, completed 2010 or through the Government's Housing Corporation (March 2008) with building started later that year and properties ready late 2009. However, this remained very speculative with so many varying factors governing the overall timescale. It is hoped that the planning application will be submitted to the District Council within the next 6/8 weeks. Mr Dorrington of BBA Architects presented the draft plan of 11 properties, comprising 3 x 3 bed houses, 6 x 2 bed houses and 2 x 2 bed flats within a courtyard, with access to the site through the existing garages, all of which will be demolished as part of the development. Most of the mature trees and hedges and the two unofficial footpaths through the site will be retained. There will be 16 car parking spaces provided, which complies with current District Council requirements of 1.5 spaces per unit. The Parish Council brought up the issue of the brook flooding and Mr Dorrington confirmed consultation would be done with the Environment Agency on this matter. Also it was suggested by the Parish Council that pedestrian access should be available through to The Street next to The Fox, as this access way is already in existence although it is not currently in use. This would make it more convenient for residents, especially to access the bus stop outside the public house rather than walk all the way round Curtis Orchard. Mr Walsh confirmed these comments would be taken away, considered further and the plans amended as necessary. Mr Gurney thanked Mr Walsh, Mr Dorrington and Carol Southall for coming to present the draft plans and confirmed it was satisfying to be closer than ever before to actually achieving a long-term goal for the Village. They subsequently left the meeting.

District Council Matters Mr Gurney invited District Councillor Ernie Clark to address the Parish Council. Mr Clark mentioned the County Council's success at being chosen to become a unitary authority. Neighbouring Somerset had been turned down. However, one of the borough councils had taken court action questioning the legality of the decision, since the legislation changing the boundaries does not become law until later this year. He also confirmed that all three District Councillors for Avonside were on the Planning Committee. He suggested that the Parish Council may wish to approach the Standards Committee for dispensation regarding its discussions about the affordable housing draft plan if quite a few of its members have a prejudicial interest. Mr Atkins asked when the unitary authority is likely to take effect. Mr Clark advised elections could be in May 2008, with the new council taking over in May 2009, as elected representatives should formulate the new constitution ready for May 2009. This would have a direct impact on the Parish Council since its elections would no longer coincide with the District Council's and it would therefore be responsible for 100% of any election expenses. Representation to the local MP would be made to encourage that in due course elections for both should be synchronized to keep costs at a minimum. Mrs Jarvis asked Mr Clark about the proposed area boards, which will number about 20 to replace the 4 district councils and whether these were just talking shops. Mr Clark confirmed that they were likely to have parish council representation but whether this would be voting or non-voting he was unsure. More powers were also likely to be passed down to parish councils. Mr Clark was thanked for his contribution and he subsequently left the meeting.

Mr Adams asked permission to erect a bench in the Cemetery in memory of his daughter Donna who had sadly passed away last year. The Parish Council thought this to be a lovely gesture so Mr Wiltshire and Mr Hooper would meet with him on site to agree a suitable position.

A letter had been received from a resident of Newleaze Park complaining about lorry deliveries at neighbouring Robatech. These increasingly large lorries deliver at any time of the day, including when the factory is shut and some drivers expect to stay parked up overnight until it reopens in the morning, restricting access and causing distress for local residents. Some deliveries are unloaded onto the road and even onto their driveway before stock being transferred onto the factory site. This continues to happen despite complaints made by the residents both to the drivers, who are often foreign and do not understand, and to Robatech staff. A letter would be sent requesting that lorries are unloaded within the factory grounds only and that deliveries from suppliers should be specified to be within working hours without fail. Enquiries would be made with WWDC Planning about any existing conditions on operational hours.

Planning A letter from the Divisional Highway Manager stated that he did not consider the 'Avon Mews' sign to obstruct drivers visibility and that this was only a temporary sign which would be removed on conclusion of the development. WWDC Planning Compliance Officer had advised that the site off the B3107 which had vehicles stored on it had been inspected several times and enquiries were being made about the relevant land owner and planning history on the site. The owner has been given the opportunity of clearing the site of vehicles and it will be inspected in due

course to ensure he complies with the possibility of a Planning Contravention Notice being served if he does not. This Notice had since been served as he had not complied and it was thought that unauthorised vehicle repairs were being conducted from the site. Permission had been given for the following applications: Ground floor rear extension at 79 The Common; Single storey rear extension at 29 Newleaze Park; First floor rear extension at 8 The Street. The application for a two storey extension to the south elevation at 149 The Street had been refused. An application for a small ground floor extension at 12 The Street had been received. The Parish Council had no objections. An application for a conservatory at the rear of 82 The Common had been received. Mr Taylor declared an interest and did not take part in discussions. The Parish Council had no objections.

General Maintenance Curtis Orchard Brook was still ongoing. The common had now been cut, including the section that the Parish Council wished to leave uncut. Efforts would be made next year to ensure the sector was left. Letters of thanks would be sent. The Clerk would arrange for the edges of the Common to be 'topped' as in previous years. WCC Highways confirmed that road repairs outside 27A the Street to stop water pooling and the nearby wall being damaged was scheduled to be completed by the end of August. During recent bad weather the B3107 Melksham to Holt road was closed due to flooding but it was pleasant to be able to use Norrington Lane, which remained clear of floods and which maybe a direct result of the ditches in the local vicinity being cleared by landowners. The privet hedge outside 25 The Street needed to be cut back. The branches overhanging the footpath near the post box outside 126 The Street needed cutting back and the owners would be advised accordingly.

Mr Hudson stated Neighbourhood Watch had been asked by the Community Policing Team for a list of issues of concern within the Community for them to address. Unsociable behaviour in the Village Hall car park and speeding through the Village were suggested.

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 5th September 2007 starting at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE – ILLEGAL DOG FOULING

The Parish Council has noted that the problem of dog faeces along stretches of footpath throughout the Village is on the increase again. Failure to clear up after a dog is an offence, can incur a substantial fine and dog owners/walkers are advised that this anti-social behaviour is **TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE**. A supply of suitable bags for clearing up after your animal are available free of charge from Melksham Town Hall and the District Council so there are no excuses. The Parish Council will no longer tolerate this problem and encourages anyone witnessing this offence to either report it to the Parish Council or direct to the District Council.

Please be advised that Broughton and Norrington commons are now included in this legislation and all dog faeces should be removed from these areas also and placed in the bins provided.

REMEMBER – DOG – LEAD – BAGS! *You wouldn't leave home without the dog, so don't leave home without the bags!*

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE - SWANS

The Parish Council is aware that complaints have been made about the swans nesting on the Common. These reports include damage to property and inconvenience caused as they choose to wander round the Village. The Swan Protection Trust had been asked to move the adults and three cygnets to a more suitable site as in previous years. However, they had since returned but with just one cygnet. The Parish Council advises that car owners park their vehicles on the Common at their own risk and if damage occurs they should take this up with their insurers. The Parish Council emphasises that the movement of the swans is a perfectly natural phenomenon, out of the control of the Parish Council or anyone else. No matter how many times they are relocated it is highly likely that they will return and this may cost the lives of the young. Therefore, their presence should be tolerated but preferably enjoyed.

District Council news from Ernie Clark,

your Independent district councillor for the parishes of Broughton Gifford, Hilperton, Holt and Staverton.

From 1st August the new dog fouling laws came into force and these mean (briefly) that anyone who allows their dog to foul on a public highway, cemetery or playing field is liable to a £1,000 fine. Incidentally, if your dog is off the lead and you aren't aware that it has gone to the toilet you are still liable for the offence - ignorance of your dog's action is not a defence.

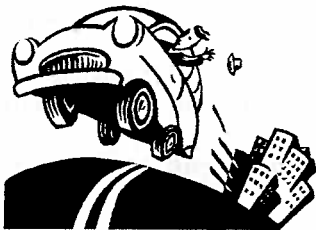
The district council has decided to seek a judicial review about the decision for Wiltshire to become a unitary authority. Very few organisations were in favour of the change and yet the Minister 'is minded' to give permission for the process.

Please remember that updates on local matters, and more, can be found on my web site www.ernieclark.org.uk. New stories are posted as soon as possible, with new planning applications normally being 'loaded' onto the site on a Saturday.

Ernie Clark

12 August 2007

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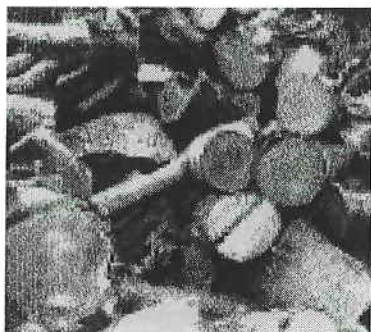


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Andrew writes

In our nation there seems to be a very vocal section of our society which is strongly secularist and vocally anti-religion. There has been a sense among many people that religions have been responsible for many of the wars and conflicts throughout world history. Those who follow a religious belief would want to respond that whilst many evil things have been done in the name of religion, they do not represent a true reflection of what a particular religion stands for, but rather a distortion of it.

It is good to hear Muslim leaders in the country roundly condemning the latest spate of terrorist attacks which have been perpetrated in the name of Islam, and moderate Muslims would want to distance themselves from those who resort to terror.

Last term I accompanied St Mary's school on a visit to the Mosque in Swindon. I believe that it is important that Christians and Muslims should go out of their way to meet and talk and encourage mutual understanding. We were made very welcome at the mosque and we were shown round by a very amiable guide who explained the daily routine of prayer that Muslims undertake.

Islam is growing in this country, and with the commitment of Muslim people to their religion, we are likely to see increasing numbers of mosques appearing in our towns and cities. Muslim children are brought up in a system where they are called to prayer 4 times a day, and the routine of a regular prayer ritual is absorbed by osmosis into the fabric of their lives. Regular attendance at the Mosque for a Muslim is a far more ingrained in their understanding of their religion than Church attendance is for most Christians.

Whilst many in our society would own the label "Christian" they would still want to say that you do not have to go to church to be a Christian. Many people still want their child to be christened (which is another word for "baptism" and is about becoming a member of the church) and yet do not want to attend church after that ceremony. Many parents say they feel that faith is important, but then give their children no religious instruction, but still insist that they will leave it to their children to make their own faith decisions when they are older. Inevitably when the children grow up, they have no interest in faith because their interest has never been kindled. All this is in stark contrast to the picture of religious observance that was painted for us in the mosque.

You would expect me to be concerned about the state of the church, and I am, and for my part I am determined do all that I can to reverse this. I am pleased to be part of the church of St Mary's which is an active and growing church. We had approximately 40 people to our Alpha Supper, people who are interested in finding out about the Alpha Course starting in September, a course which explores the Christian faith. Let me know if you would like to join in.

I believe that religious belief, and for me that is Christian belief, is important to the fabric of society. The Christian faith is about journeying through life with God at your side, and seeing the relationship that you have with Him change you into a better person. This keeps us humble and aware of our own short-comings, whilst at the same time giving us purpose, direction and comfort. I say this is what our society needs and that we are better off with faith. How about you?

With Every Blessing
Andrew

September

1 st	8.30 am Ladies Breakfast, The Bell on the Common.
	3 pm Wedding at St Mary's.
8 th	1 pm Wedding at St Mary's.
11 th	7.30 pm Alpha Course starts, Holt Village Hall.
12 th	7.30 pm St Mary's PCC at Jasmine Cottage.
18 th	7.30 pm Alpha Course, Holt Village Hall.
22 nd	8.30 am Men's Breakfast, The Bell on the Common.
23 rd	10.00 am St. Mary's Harvest Festival Parish Communion. All welcome.
25 th	7.30 pm Alpha Course, Holt Village Hall.
29 th	7.30 pm St Mary's and All Saints Harvest Supper BG Village Hall. All welcome.
30 th	10.30 am All Saints' Harvest Festival, Benefice and Ecumenical service.

SUNDAY SERVICES

<u>September</u>	ST KATHARINE'S HOLT	ST MARY'S BROUGHTON GIFFORD	ALL SAINTS GREAT CHALFIELD
2 nd	9.00 am HC 10.30 am AAW	10.00 am MS	6.00 pm E
9 th	10.30 am PC	10.00 am MS	11.00 am HC
16 th	10.30 am AAW Harvest Festival 6.00 pm Immanuel Service	8.45 am HC 10.00 am MS	11.00 am M
23 rd	10.30 am AAW 6.00 pm ChE	10.00 am PC Harvest Festival	9.00 am HC
30 th	St. Katharine's and St. Mary's please join All Saints'		10.30 am Harvest Festival
<u>October</u>			
7 th	9.00 am HC 10.30 am AAW	10.00 am MS	6.00 pm E
14 th	10.30 am PC	10.00 am MS	11.00 am HC

KEY TO TYPES OF SERVICE

HC	Holy Communion	PC	Parish Communion, Common Worship	FC	Family Communion
AAW	All Age Worship	E	Evening Prayer	M	Matins
ChE	Choral Evensong	SP	Special Praise Service	MS	Morning Service

St Mary's Church, Broughton Gifford

Our Patronal Festival was on August 12th; yet again the decorations in the church were beautiful. The blues and whites of various types of flowers looked resplendent against the stone walls and pillars. Much appreciation of the "flower ladies" hard and dedicated work was shown on the Sunday by worshippers at St Mary's. The Rector - Rev Andrew Evans - expressed his thanks and admiration of the arrangements at the service. My thanks go also to those who gave flowers and those who gave time to make it look so lovely.

Our next Festival is Harvest, 23rd September. Everyone is welcome to help decorate the church for this occasion, gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables are also welcome. Tins and boxes of food can also be used to help with the "soup kitchens" for those in need.

This year especially, with all the floods, we have a lot to be thankful for in this area and it would be great to see our church full of folks who should be saying thankyou in a positive way.

*Look forward to your company
Janet Cameron-Watson*

All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above.

IRISH THEMED NIGHT - Saturday 30th June

We would like to thank all those who came to St Mary's Irish Themed Night. There were over 85 of us and we hoped you all enjoyed it.

We would like to thank especially Stuart Rankine and his Associates, Cecilia le Poer Power and Stuart Ryan for the excellent music and singing. We would also like to thank Mortimers for all the potatoes and that lovely red cabbage. Many thanks to all those people who made us delicious puddings, special thanks to Jo Evans who helped Sarah cook the hot pot, to people who gave us bottles for the raffle, to those who washed up tirelessly, many thanks to Madelyn Arnold for the flower arrangements and to Brian Morris for giving up virtually a whole day to help get the hall ready. Special thanks to Jacqueline Morris and James Chandler for all their help on the night. Thank you to Tony at The Bell for all his help and to the Auction Donations: Major Byham, Sally Boats, Ascent Balloons and Jonathon Barden for the BBC Tour.

We would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets and congratulations go to: -

Kate Swanton	1 st Prize	£100	Mr Escott, Newleaze Park	2 nd Prize	£50
L Compton, The Common	3 rd Prize	£25	Hilary Pratt	Whisky	
Mr & Mrs Henly	Whisky		Annette Stone	Wine	
Karen Thompson	Wine		Sonia Baldy	Irish Baileys	
Jeremy	Irish Cream				

We raised £1,500 and thank especially the people who anonymously gave generous donations. Many thanks to you all again.

Sarah Chandler, Mike Wilson and Annette Stone.

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BROUGHTON GIFFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 2 nd September	6 pm		Flowers: Ethel Flatt Cleaning: Eileen
Sunday 8 th September	6 pm	Holy Communion	Flowers: Greta Land Cleaning: Liz and Margaret
Sunday 16 th September	6 pm	Harvest Festival	Cleaning: Liz and Margaret
Sunday 23 rd September	6 pm		Flowers: from Harvest Cleaning: Lesley
Sunday 30 th September	6 pm		Flowers: Margaret Cleaning: Lesley
Sunday 7 th October	6 pm		Flowers: Eileen Cleaning: Eileen

Monday 17th, 7 for 7.30 pm,
Harvest Supper, Cost £3.50
Limited numbers. Names to
Eileen or Greta by Harvest
Festival.

Our Minister will be on a
Sabbatical from Sept/Nov.
Anybody needing help
please contact Ethel Flatt
782344 or minister Revd
Roy Fowler (01249 813340).

We send our love and best
wishes to Dwywyn.

Decorating for harvest -
Saturday 15th from 10 am.

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

July 2007 As July is normally our month for an outing so we duly set off to Tetbury. Eleven ladies met with a man from the Historical Society of Tetbury and he walked us around the town - down steps, through alleys, around back routes and back up steps and pointed out the various interesting features of the town. One of these little nuggets included the fact that from the tower of the church of St Mary the Virgin you can see all the way to Highgrove as one of the church's benefactors who lived at Tetbury wanted a clear view of the church. It was extremely interesting being taken around the town into places that I would have missed if I had stopped and looked around on my own. He was kind enough not to take us up the steep hill but around the slightly more gentler steps. He showed us the old railway yards that used to be in Wiltshire so that when animals were transported to market they had to cross the border to walk the last few yards. We finished off by the Market House and having said thank you to our very kind guide we then went to polish off a large cream tea at the Two Toads (which comes from a tongue twister rhyme Two toads totally tired of trying to trot to Tetbury) which was really appreciated after our hour long trek around the town. I certainly would recommend anybody contacting the Tourist Information and getting a guide to show them a town like Tetbury for there is much that we do not see when we visit these places.

Lesley Holdway

August 2007 I wonder if anyone these days would envy Elizabeth Squires who, at age twelve and a half, had finished her schooling and was employed full time as a teacher in the same school in which she had been a pupil! She was a teacher - the only teacher - at Sevington Village School for sixty years coping with pupils at all levels up to the age of twelve and a half when they left for the world of work. It was not exactly the wide wide world as they were all given employment on Grittleton estate either on the farms or in the gardens, or maybe in some specialised trade, or in the Big House as scullery maids, housemaids or perhaps working as cook's skivvy.

But I am leaping backwards too fast. Our August outing was a visit to Sevington Victorian School, and very fascinating and illuminating it was too.

We were greeted at the School by Mrs Celia Jennings formidably dressed as a Victorian school-ma'am might well have been. She is hostess to countless groups of present day school children as well as to several groups such as ourselves.

We, of course, arrived in cars and parked right outside the school building, and when we had all gathered there, the school bell was rung and we were marshalled into a line. Had there been any men in our party they would have to have formed another line - boys and girls entered separately although there is only one school room. Naturally there was no talking.

Mr Joseph Nield had bought the Grittleton estate with money from a large inheritance, and in 1849 he built Sevington village school with a chapel and accommodation for the resident teacher, all part of one single building. The design was almost identical with that of Grittleton Church.

We were then shown the teacher's accommodation downstairs - the parlour and the kitchen. The hot water system for the house was a large kettle on the top of a kitchen range which was shiny black with Zebo and elbow-grease. Old sink and enamel drainer were important fittings, and there was a housemaid's box for girls when they left for employment in the Big House. There were stairs in one corner but dear old Health and Safety deem them unsuitable for the modern generation.

We then went into the school room and took our places along the three lines of desks and benches (rather too narrow I fancy for the WI). Some of the desks had ink wells which Teacher filled from a bottle, carefully wiping the drips with special cloths. The more advanced pupils were given pens and books lined and printed with exercises to be copied. We had two frightful swats who kept their heads bent over their desks while they diligently practised their loops and letters to the bitter end. This was long after the rest of us had given up writing and arithmetic on our slates. We had a pounds, shillings and pence sum set

up for us on the blackboard. It was a relief that we got it right. There was that dunce's cap on the shelf next to Teacher, and also finger stocks for the erring hand. I reckon those two swats might have needed a spell strapped to the posture board - they were bent so much over their work. A very suitable corrective measure. A portrait of Queen Victoria was hung for all to see. One feels she might have been a mite disapproving of any levity in the schoolroom. Maybe she was thinking about the pink bits on the map of the world which was also displayed.

Children had to learn to speak distinctly, they listened to Bible readings and sang hymns, and it was compulsory for them to use their right hands for writing.

Each child brought his or her dinner in a paper bag. There was some playtime with hoops and skipping ropes, and football for the boys. And maybe they were allowed in the Teacher's garden sometimes to learn about plants and herbs, and the fruit trees and bushes and the beehive. Also in the garden was that essential mod com - the earth closet.

After evening prayers at the end of each day the children were required to shake hands with the Teacher before they went home.

Mr Nield's philanthropy was of great advantage to both himself and the children of the village. The young were assured of employment and Mr Nield had an unfailing source of labour for his land and his house.

I am sure that if Mrs Jennings had been transported back in time and been the teacher at a Victorian school all the children would have thoroughly enjoyed their schooling. She has such a happy personality and her love of children shines through. I know we WI members very much enjoyed being her school pupils for our evening outing.

Paula Bailhache

Jan Symes

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